WISE (Wi-Fi Internet for School Emergencies) Pilot FAQ

What is the WISE Pilot Initiative?

- New Department of Public Safety (DPS) led initiative, in collaboration with local public safety agencies
- DPS utilizing Iowa Communications Network (ICN) broadband fiber backbone school locations
- Pilot project
    - Proof of concept with three Wi-Fi equipment vendors
        - Aruba
        - Cisco
        - Fortinet
    - Three school locations identified for pilot program field trial
        - Marshalltown
        - Martensdale
        - Norwalk
- Allows first responders to connect to a dedicated, private, secure, Wi-Fi connection at a school location and access law enforcement's critical applications via ICN broadband fiber backbone
- "FirstNet Simulation" in that broadband signal is being prioritized for public safety
    - **Important to note, this is not LTE, this is Wi-Fi**

What is the goal?

- Enhance public safety presence at Iowa schools; build community relations
- Provide dedicated, private, secure Wi-Fi capacity and availability for mobile public safety units
    - In day to day operations, eliminate drive time needed to LAN/hub for large uploads/downloads
    - On an emergency basis, capacity in the field always available in multiple key locations

What is the available bandwidth?

- Up to 100 Mb

What is the status?

- Currently we are in phase 1, or test phase
- We expect to enter phase 2, or field trial phase, before the end of the summer

Who can get involved with WISE Pilot Initiative?

- MUST be an authorized public safety organization in Marshall or Warren County

How to get involved?

- Send an email to ISICSB at iowanet@iowa.gov

Questions? Contact ISICSB at iowanet@iowa.gov or 515-725-6113 /www.isicsb.iowa.gov
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board - www.isicsb.iowa.gov
Oran Pape State Office Building | 215 East 7th Street | Des Moines, IA 50319

1. What exactly will WISE do, or allow users to do? How will it allow responders to access surveillance cameras to see what's happening before arriving at the scene?
WISE will allow the users access to high speed, dedicated, private, secure wifi internet access. This will allow agencies to download and upload data much faster when they are mobile. If a school has an IP surveillance system and provides an agency access, the school surveillance may be accessible on scene. The connection before arriving would still be limited to their service provider for their mobile internet connection.
2. Is WISE intended solely for public safety responders? (Is school administration or school officials able to use it? Who will be authorized?)
WISE is intended solely for public safety and first responders.
3. Is it, or will it incorporate, an application/platform/dashboard/software? Or just a separate internet network connected through the ICN only to be used for this purpose?
At this time, no additional hardware or software is needed for public safety personnel to use the platform. WISE is merely a high speed, dedicated, private, secure wifi internet access point.
4. Could you elaborate on how WISE will connect to the ICN Backbone/broadband fiber already in place at school districts?
The ICN has connections at over 300 schools in Iowa. These connections will be used to provide broadband access from the WISE WiFi connections to the Internet and Public Safety agencies.
5. In reference to this part: "First responders will be able to access critical IT assets and be able to upload and download information from the school while in their vehicles or patrol cars." -- What kinds of IT assets/information? What devices can connect to WISE that will provide this information/surveillance footage?
IT asset information would include different software and applications such as CASM(Communication Assets Survey & Mapping), MACH (Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling), TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) which have information critical to public safety during an event. Any device that can access a secure wifi hotspot can connect to WISE, e.g. wireless cameras, cameras in patrol cars (or other public safety vehicles), and mapping software.
6. Can they connect to the Wi-Fi network from their patrol cars remotely? How far will the network or access points reach? How many access points will there be for the pilot, and where
WISE is meant to be used at the school location. The range is limited to parts of the campus where a mobile unit may locate.
7. Will public safety officials need to install any additional software or programs?
No additional software is required at this time.
8. Can you elaborate on the FirstNet reference.. "The WISE School system is a simulation of the FirstNet network" – How so? Will it mimic the capabilities of the anticipated FirstNet program?
WISE will simulate FirstNet in that it is a connection for public safety and first responders only.
9. How are the three Wi-Fi vendors, and ICN, working together? What are the assigned roles/collaboration?
Fortinet, Aruba, and Cisco have generously donated equipment and technical expertise in fielding the Wireless Access Points. Additionally they have helped provide input on the success criteria to be measured during the evaluation.
10. What will the field testing be like for this pilot? How will you measure success, response, etc?
Users will be testing the ability for State and Local law enforcement and other first responders to first and foremost connect to the network and accomplish what tasks they do currently on their mobile hotspots or wi-fi connections. Testing of the WLAN and WAN will also take place.
11. Will the pilot last the full school year at the three school districts? Will it be at each school in those districts?
The pilot is currently scheduled for 1 year at Marshalltown, and 6 months for Norwalk and Martensdale. At this time there are no plans to extend the pilot to other districts.